

Public Symposium

Rivers to the Ocean: China's Emerging Roles in the South Pacific

Sponsored and organised by
The New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre

Wednesday, 3 August 2011
Hunter Council Chamber
Victoria University of Wellington
Wellington, New Zealand

During the past decade, China has embarked on a series of cross-regional diplomatic initiatives designed to enhance its strategic presence further afield of Asia. One region which has not received as much scrutiny as others is the South Pacific, especially Polynesia and Melanesia, where Beijing has embarked on a series of initiatives, including economic assistance, infrastructure projects, and diplomatic cooperation.

This symposium will examine questions regarding China's evolving regional strategies as well as the possible responses from the South Pacific and traditional in the region, namely the United States and New Zealand.

PROGRAMME

- 9:00-9:30am *Refreshments*
- 9:30-9:45am **Opening Remarks**
Mr Christopher Elder, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand
- 9:45-11:00 **Panel 1 Players and Policies**
- Dr Steven Ratuva**, *Auckland University* - "Is the Pacific Becoming a Chinese Lake?"
- Associate Professor Anne-Marie Brady**, *University of Canterbury*, - 'China, Taiwan, and the South Pacific from a New Zealand Perspective'
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*
- 11:30-12:45pm **Panel 2 Strategy and Diplomacy**
- Dr Jian Yang**, *Auckland University*, - 'Myths about China's Growing Involvement in the South Pacific'
- Dr Marc Lanteigne**, *Victoria University of Wellington*, - 'China's Regional Commercial Diplomacy and the US Response'
- 12:45-13:15 **Closing Remarks**
Mr Michael Powles, Victoria University of Wellington, Centre for Strategic Studies